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MAILED

APR 1 2003

Office of the Director
Group 3600

In re Application of
James A. Brownlee et al.
Application No. 09/855,917
Filed: May 15, 2001
For: CABLE TIE WITH WIDE NECK

DECISION ON PETITION
TO ACCEPT A
LATE COMMUNICATION

This is in response to applicant's communication filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), on March 27, 2003. This communication is being treated as a petition to accept a late communication under 37 CFR 1.181.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A review of the file record indicates that a final rejection setting a three month shortened statutory period was mailed to the applicant on October 22, 2002.

The applicant has submitted, on March 27, 2003, a copy of an Amendment after Final Action, which includes a signed Certificate of Transmission having a transmission date of January 21, 2003. A statement attesting to the timely transmission of the response by Tina M. Langdon is also included. This is acceptable evidence to accord the Amendment after Final Action the date of January 21, 2003.

The application is being forwarded to the Supervisory Legal Instruments Examiner for treatment of the Amendment after Final Action filed with the petition, and then to the Examiner for prompt action on the merits of the application.

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RAR/tpl: 4/1/03